

1

2

3 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
4 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
5 OAKLAND DIVISION

6  
7 JUAN CARLOS LEMUS,

8 Plaintiff,

No. C 11-1099 PJH (PR)

9 vs.

10 CORRECTIONAL TRAINING FACILITY  
11 EMPLOYEES; DR. E. SULLIVAN, DR. J.  
12 LEE, RN A. COLEMAN, CMO D.  
13 JACOBSEN, B. DIXON, JANE DOES  
14 AND JOHN DOES (1-20), and  
15 DIRECTOR M. CATE (CDCR),

**ORDER DISMISSING  
COMPLAINT WITH LEAVE  
TO AMEND**

Defendants.

16 \_\_\_\_\_/

17 **BACKGROUND**

18 This is a civil rights case filed pro se by a state prisoner. On the day the complaint  
19 was filed, the clerk sent plaintiff a notice that he had not paid the filing fee or filed an  
20 application for leave to proceed in forma pauperis ("IFP"). Plaintiff filed an IFP application  
21 within the time allowed. The court then entered an order noting that the application was  
22 defective because page five, the "Certificate of Funds in Inmate Account," was not  
23 completed and signed by an authorized person at the prison, and the attached printout of  
24 transactions in plaintiff's inmate account did not cover a six-month period, as required by  
25 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2). He was granted thirty days to either pay the filing fee or provide a  
26 complete and proper IFP application. He filed another application, but it again omitted  
27 page five, and this time also omitted the printout of transactions. The case was dismissed.

28 Plaintiff then wrote to the court saying that his counselor had explained to him that  
the prison's accounting office was at fault, having both times omitted page five, and asking  
that the case be reopened. The court granted the motion and reopened the case, but

1 because the factual assertions in the motion were not supported by a declaration, did not  
2 rule on the motion to proceed IFP. Plaintiff was given thirty days to provide a declaration  
3 setting out the facts of his attempts to obtain the necessary IFP materials and, if possible,  
4 to actually provide a properly-completed IFP application. He has filed another IFP  
5 application and a declaration.

6 The IFP application still does not have a completed certificate of funds, nor does it  
7 have a printout of transactions. Plaintiff has, however, provided the declaration the court  
8 requested, saying that with the assistance of his counselor he at least twice complied with  
9 the prison's procedure for obtaining these items, only to have the trust department send  
10 incomplete IFP applications to this court. Presumably that is what has happened again  
11 with the most recent application. The motion for leave to proceed IFP is granted in a  
12 separate order. Of course, if the case proceeds after the amendment ordered below,  
13 defendants can move to revoke IFP if they believe it not to be merited.

14 The court will now screen the complaint to determine if it should be served.

## 15 SCREENING

### 16 A. Standard of Review

17 Federal courts must engage in a preliminary screening of cases in which prisoners  
18 seek redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity.  
19 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review the court must identify any cognizable claims, and  
20 dismiss any claims which are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may  
21 be granted, or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *Id.* at  
22 1915A(b)(1),(2). Pro se pleadings must be liberally construed. *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police*  
23 *Dep't*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990).

24 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a)(2) requires only "a short and plain statement of  
25 the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief." "Specific facts are not necessary;  
26 the statement need only ""give the defendant fair notice of what the . . . claim is and the  
27 grounds upon which it rests."'" *Erickson v. Pardus*, 551 U.S. 89, 93 (2007) (citations  
28 omitted). Although in order to state a claim a complaint "does not need detailed factual

1 allegations, . . . a plaintiff's obligation to provide the 'grounds' of his 'entitle[ment] to relief'  
2 requires more than labels and conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of the elements of a  
3 cause of action will not do. . . . Factual allegations must be enough to raise a right to relief  
4 above the speculative level." *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007)  
5 (citations omitted). A complaint must proffer "enough facts to state a claim to relief that is  
6 plausible on its face." *Id.* at 570. The United States Supreme Court has explained the  
7 "plausible on its face" standard of *Twombly*: "While legal conclusions can provide the  
8 framework of a complaint, they must be supported by factual allegations. When there are  
9 well-pleaded factual allegations, a court should assume their veracity and then determine  
10 whether they plausibly give rise to an entitlement to relief." *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662,  
11 679 (2009). Complaints in pro se prisoner cases such as this one must be liberally  
12 construed in favor of the plaintiff when applying the *Twombly/Iqbal* pleading standard.  
13 *Hebbe v. Pliler*, 627 F.3d 338, 341-42 (9th Cir. 2010).

14 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential  
15 elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was  
16 violated, and (2) that the alleged deprivation was committed by a person acting under the  
17 color of state law. *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

18 **B. Legal Claims**

19 Plaintiff asserts that he suffers from Coccidioidomycosis, apparently the disease that  
20 is commonly called "Valley Fever." He contends that he has not received proper medical  
21 care for it, but his allegations are conclusory and are all against "defendants," rather than  
22 specific named defendants. For instance, he contends that "From September 2009 to  
23 March 2010, defendants have repeated denied, delayed, medical tests and providing  
24 medical treatment for plaintiff's Coccidioidomycosis [and] failed to provide plaintiff with  
25 necessary and pain and infections medications . . ." This is insufficient to meet the *Iqbal*  
26 standard. Plaintiff must provide specific factual allegations as to what each individual  
27 defendant actually did, identified as closely as possible by time and location, sufficient to  
28 make it plausible that he has a claim for relief against each defendant. And unless a claim

1 involves a plausible group activity directed at him, allegations against "defendants" are not  
2 sufficient. The complaint will be dismissed with leave to amend.

3 **CONCLUSION**

4 1. The complaint is **DISMISSED** with leave to amend, as indicated above, within  
5 thirty days from the date of this order. The amended complaint must include the caption  
6 and civil case number used in this order and the words AMENDED COMPLAINT on the  
7 first page. Because an amended complaint completely replaces the original complaint,  
8 plaintiff must include in it all the claims he wishes to present. See *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963  
9 F.2d 1258, 1262 (9th Cir. 1992). He may not incorporate material from the original  
10 complaint by reference. Failure to amend within the designated time will result in the  
11 dismissal of the complaint.

12 2. It is the plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the  
13 court informed of any change of address by filing a separate paper with the clerk headed  
14 "Notice of Change of Address," and must comply with the court's orders in a timely fashion.  
15 Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant to  
16 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

17 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

18 Dated: July 31, 2012.

19   
PHYLLIS J. HAMILTON  
United States District Judge

20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28